

Submitter: Mary Nauha

On Behalf
Of:

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and
Water

Measure: HB2616

I am a property owner and resident of Clatsop County and ask that you support HB 2616. I have in-laws who come here from Europe where they consume raw dairy on a daily basis and are unable to drink pasteurized dairy products sold here when they visit due to certain dairy intolerances they experience. As these intolerances are genetic, my husband believes it is in our family's best interest to consume raw dairy to avoid them but it is very difficult to find raw milk products in Oregon. You must know several producers to have a consistent supply as they are limited in their production and their cows cannot produce milk year-round.

HB 2616 would increase access for consumers to raw milk products and increase the number of raw milk products they can legally purchase to include cheeses and butter and fermented products such as kefir and yogurt which have little or no record of making anyone sick.

Raw milk has a good track record for safety; a recent study found that as raw milk consumption has increased in the U.S., the number of foodborne illnesses attributed to raw milk has remained flat or gone down. The testing, certification and food safety plan requirements for producers selling in retail stores assure a supply of safe, clean milk.

The bill increases markets for micro-dairies and can potentially help some of the dairies that are currently producing raw milk for pasteurization remain in business. Fewer than 200 Grade A dairies remain in Oregon today.

Please vote YES for House Bill 2616.

Thank you.